535

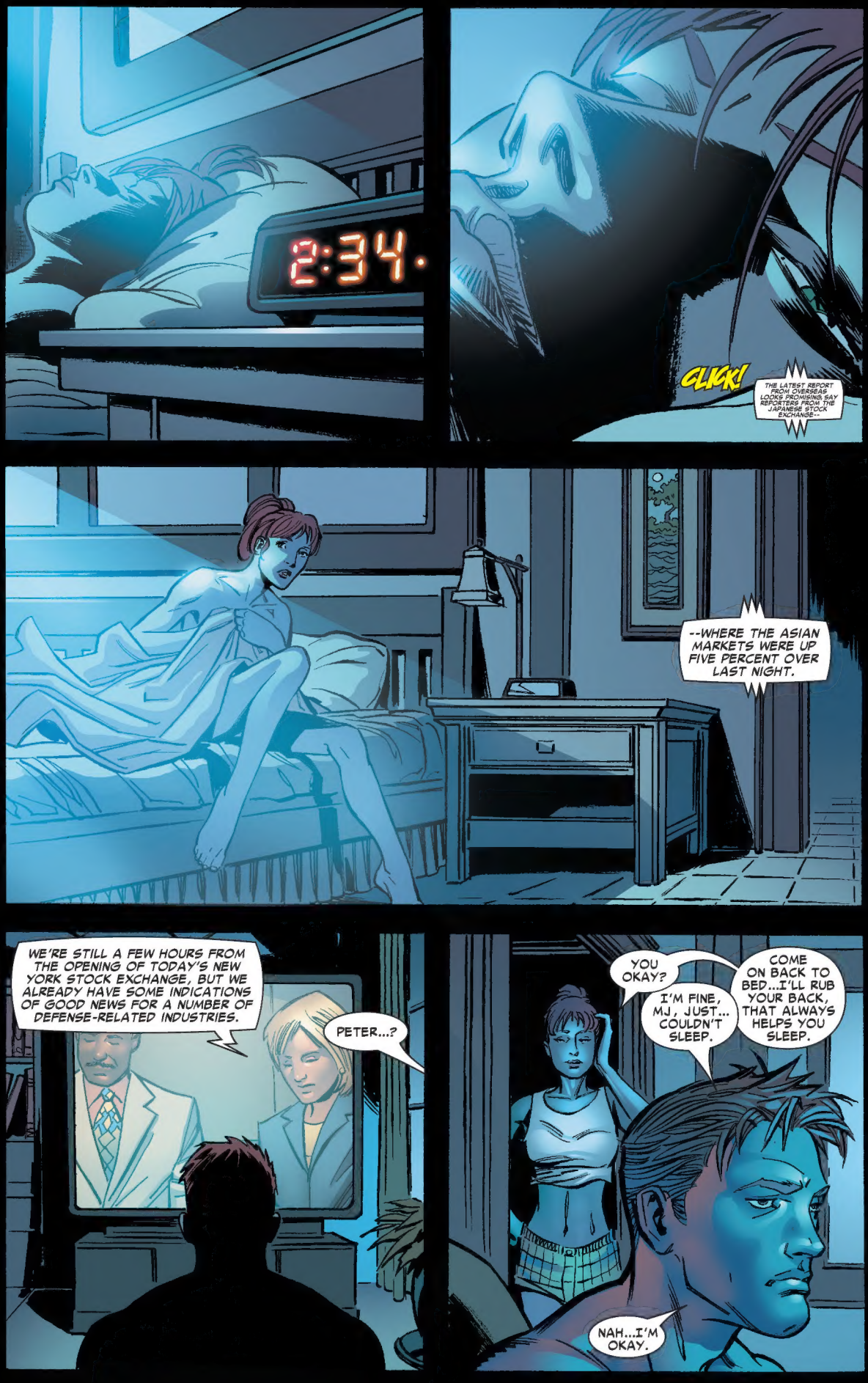
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

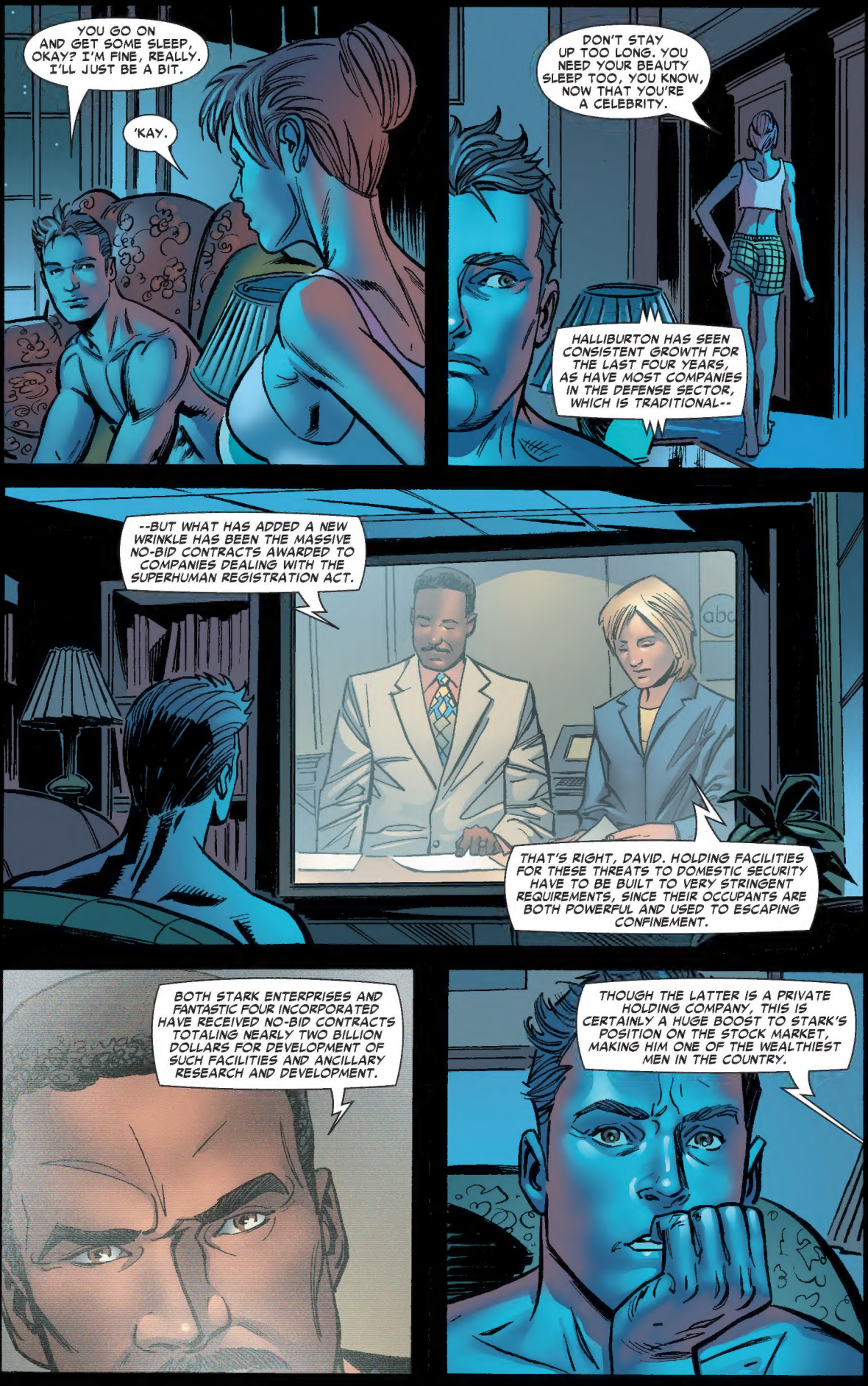
A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

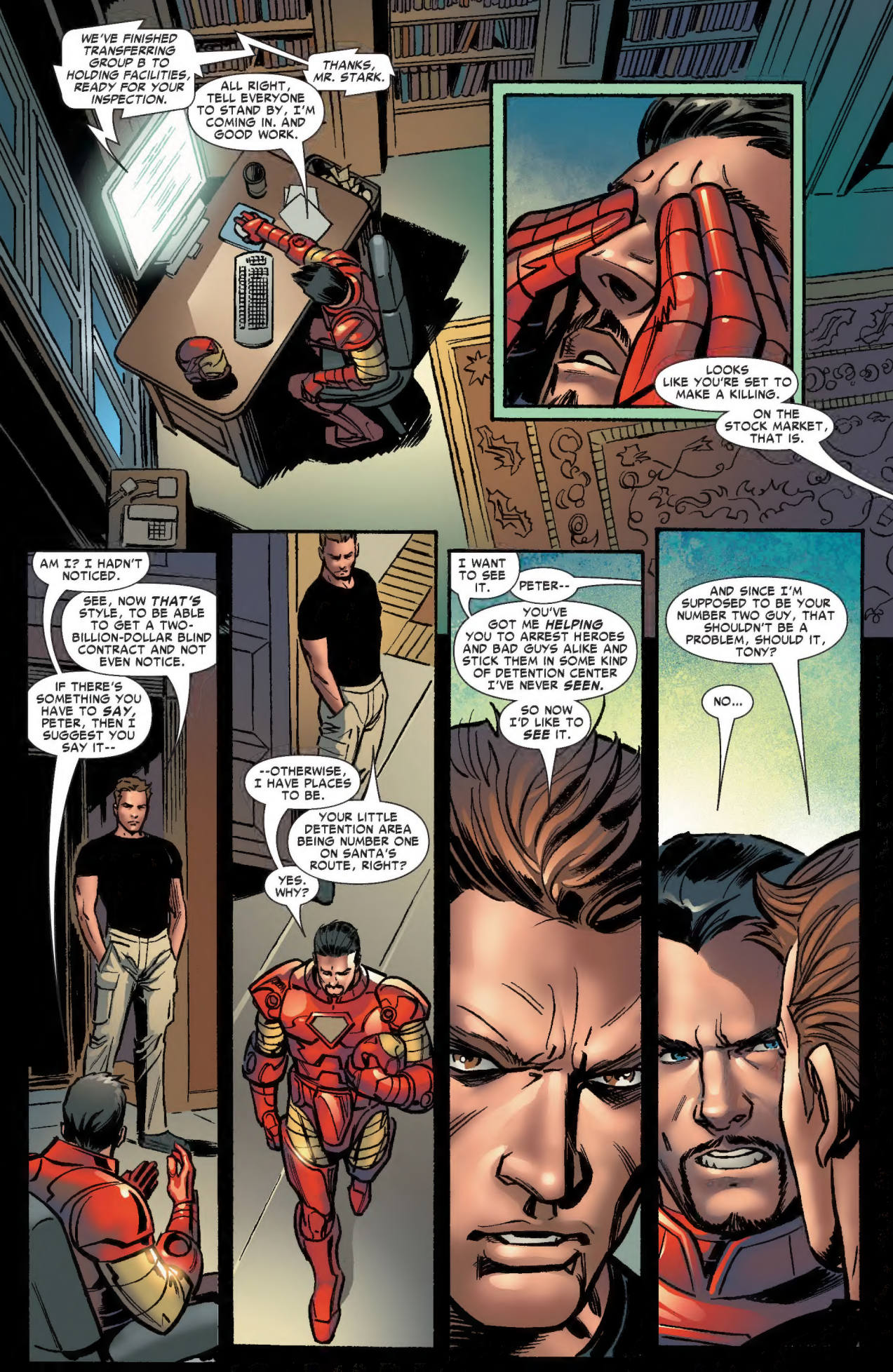
CIVIL WAR™

STRACZYNSKI

GARNEY


2:34.
CLICK!
THE LATEST REPORT FROM OVERSEAS LOOKS PROMISING, SAY REPORTERS FROM THE JAPANESE STOCK EXCHANGE--
--WHERE THE ASIAN MARKETS WERE UP FIVE PERCENT OVER LAST NIGHT.
WE'RE STILL A FEW HOURS FROM THE OPENING OF TODAY'S NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, BUT WE ALREADY HAVE SOME INDICATIONS OF GOOD NEWS FOR A NUMBER OF DEFENSE-RELATED INDUSTRIES.
PETER...?
YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE, MJ, JUST... COULDN'T SLEEP.
COME ON BACK TO BED...I'LL RUB YOUR BACK, THAT ALWAYS HELPS YOU SLEEP.
NAH...I'M OKAY.


YOU GO ON AND GET SOME SLEEP, OKAY? I'M FINE, REALLY. I'LL JUST BE A BIT.
'KAY.
DON'T STAY UP TOO LONG. YOU NEED YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP TOO, YOU KNOW, NOW THAT YOU'RE A CELEBRITY.
HALLIBURTON HAS SEEN CONSISTENT GROWTH FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, AS HAVE MOST COMPANIES IN THE DEFENSE SECTOR, WHICH IS TRADITIONAL--
--BUT WHAT HAS ADDED A NEW WRINKLE HAS BEEN THE MASSIVE NO-BID CONTRACTS AWARDED TO COMPANIES DEALING WITH THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT.
abc
THAT'S RIGHT, DAVID. HOLDING FACILITIES FOR THESE THREATS TO DOMESTIC SECURITY HAVE TO BE BUILT TO VERY STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS, SINCE THEIR OCCUPANTS ARE BOTH POWERFUL AND USED TO ESCAPING CONFINEMENT.
BOTH STARK ENTERPRISES AND FANTASTIC FOUR INCORPORATED HAVE RECEIVED NO-BID CONTRACTS TOTALING NEARLY TWO BILLION DOLLARS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH FACILITIES AND ANCILLARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
THOUGH THE LATTER IS A PRIVATE HOLDING COMPANY, THIS IS CERTAINLY A HUGE BOOST TO STARK'S POSITION ON THE STOCK MARKET, MAKING HIM ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST MEN IN THE COUNTRY.


WE'VE FINISHED TRANSFERRING GROUP B TO HOLDING FACILITIES, READY FOR YOUR INSPECTION.
ALL RIGHT, TELL EVERYONE TO STAND BY, I'M COMING IN. AND GOOD WORK.
THANKS, MR. STARK.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SET TO MAKE A KILLING.
ON THE STOCK MARKET, THAT IS.
AM I? I HADN'T NOTICED.
SEE, NOW *THAT'S* STYLE, TO BE ABLE TO GET A TWO-BILLION-DOLLAR BLIND CONTRACT AND NOT EVEN NOTICE.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO *SAY*, PETER, THEN I SUGGEST YOU SAY IT--
--OTHERWISE, I HAVE PLACES TO BE.
YOUR LITTLE DETENTION AREA BEING NUMBER ONE ON SANTA'S ROUTE, RIGHT?
YES. WHY?
I WANT TO SEE IT.
PETER--
YOU'VE GOT ME *HELPING* YOU TO ARREST HEROES AND BAD GUYS ALIKE AND STICK THEM IN SOME KIND OF DETENTION CENTER I'VE NEVER *SEEN*.
SO NOW I'D LIKE TO *SEE* IT.
AND SINCE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR NUMBER TWO GUY, THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM, SHOULD IT, TONY?
NO...

"...NO PROBLEM AT ALL..."
...IN FACT, I SUGGESTED TO TONY THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE WHAT WE'VE COME UP WITH, BEING SOMETHING OF A SCIENTIST YOURSELF.
REALLY? HE NEVER MENTIONED IT.
I'VE BEEN A BIT BUSY, PETER.
OF COURSE.
THIS'LL JUST TAKE ME A MOMENT--
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S BEN?
HE'S...DECIDED TO TAKE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.
WHAT ABOUT SUE?
SHE'S... NOT HERE.
YEAH, BUT--
OPENING NEGATIVE ZONE DISTORTION FIELD.
THE NEGATIVE ZONE?
YOU'RE KEEPING THESE PEOPLE IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE?
THERE'S NO SAFE PLACE ON EARTH TO HOLD THEM, PETER. WE HAD NO CHOICE.
NO CHOICE AT ALL.
BETTER GRAB A THRUSTER PACK, PETER.

THE WAR AT HOME
PART FOUR OF SIX
YOU'RE CLEAR TO PROCEED.

ISN'T THIS WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY "ARE WE THERE YET?" OVER AND OVER UNTIL I GET ANNOYED?

MAYBE LATER.

SO ARE WE CALLING A MORATORIUM ON BUGGING ME? I MEAN, I HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD YOU CALL ME **BOSS** LATELY.

I HADN'T NOTICED. I...

...HOLY...

THERE IT IS, PETER.

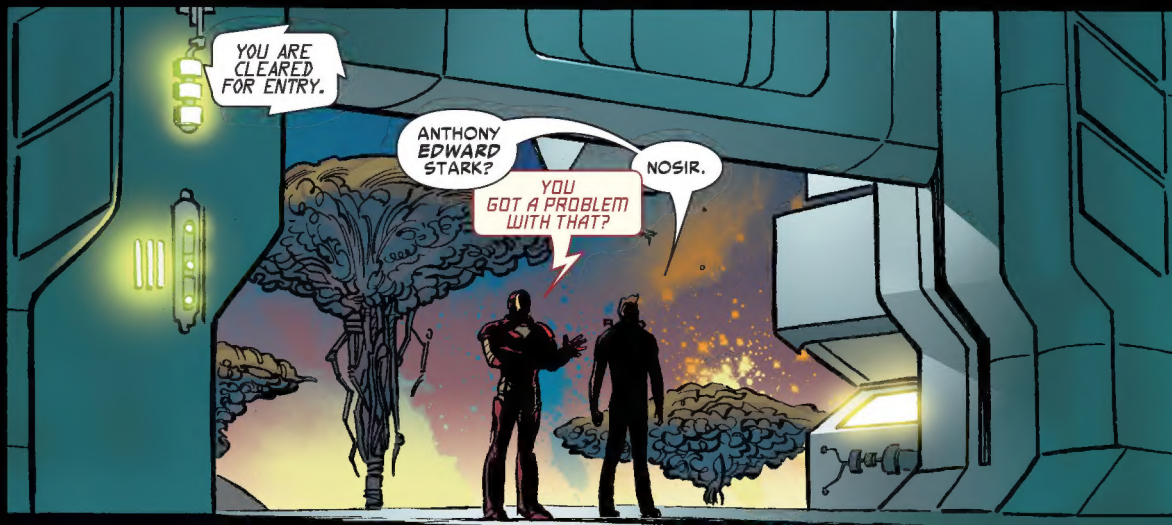
END OF THE ROAD FOR AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE.

AN AWFUL LOT.

A COMPUTER PROGRAM RANDOMLY GENERATES NEW PASSWORDS EVERY TEN MINUTES.
TANGO-SIERRA-LLOYD-BRIDGES.
GUARD POST BRAVO TO STARK, CONFIRM ID PLEASE.

LLOYD BRIDGES?
THE PROGRAM HAS AN UNANTICIPATED AFFINITY FOR THE NAMES OF 1960s TV ACTORS. TEN MINUTES AGO IT WAS CHARLIE-FOXTROT-ADAM-WEST.
WHEN IT GETS TO SEBASTIAN CABOT I'M PULLING THE PLUG.

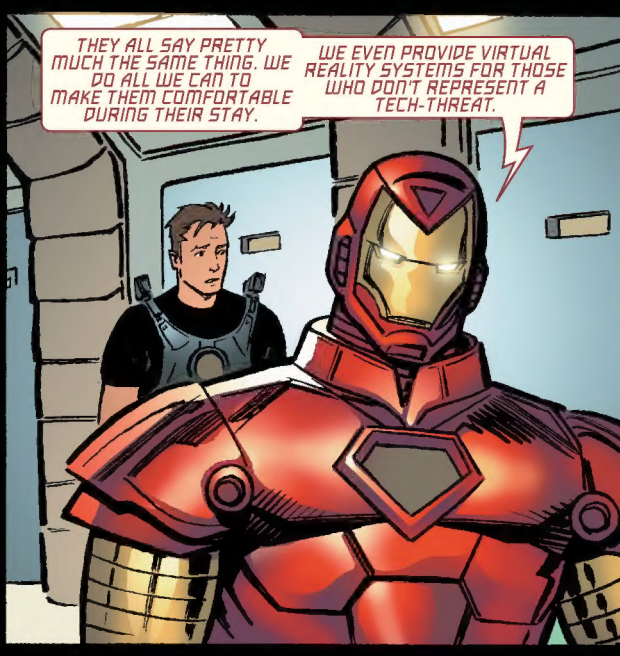
STAND BY FOR FIVE-POINT ID SCAN.
HANDPRINT: MATCH.
FINGERPRINT: MATCH.
BONE CONFIGURATION: MATCH.
BLOOD TYPE: MATCH.
DNA SAMPLE: MATCH.
IDENTITY CONFIRMED: ANTHONY EDWARD STARK.


YOU ARE CLEARED FOR ENTRY.
ANTHONY EDWARD STARK?
NO SIR.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

THE DOORS, FLOORS, CEILINGS AND WALLS ARE MADE WITH A NEW KIND OF SYNTHETIC VIBRANIUM. IT'S NOT AS STRONG AS THE REAL THING, BUT WHEN YOU BUILD IT THIS THICK, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.

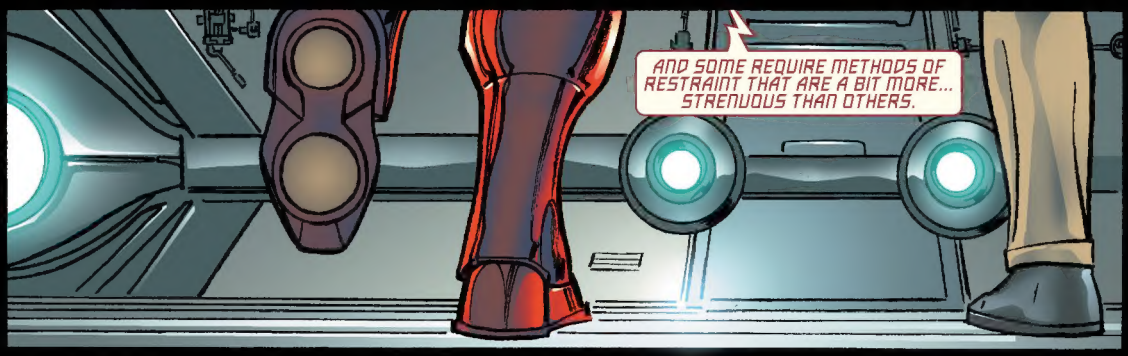
EVERY CELL IS CUSTOMIZED TO HOLD ITS UNIQUE OCCUPANT. IF HE CONTROLS FIRE, THE ROOM EMITS COLD; IF THE OCCUPANT EMITS A FREQUENCY, THE ROOM EMITS A COUNTER-FREQUENCY.
THEY'RE JUST WORDS, PETER...
"THE OCCUPANT." SOUNDS LIKE A HOTEL. DON'T YOU MEAN "THE PRISONER"?
NAME: RICHARD GILMORE

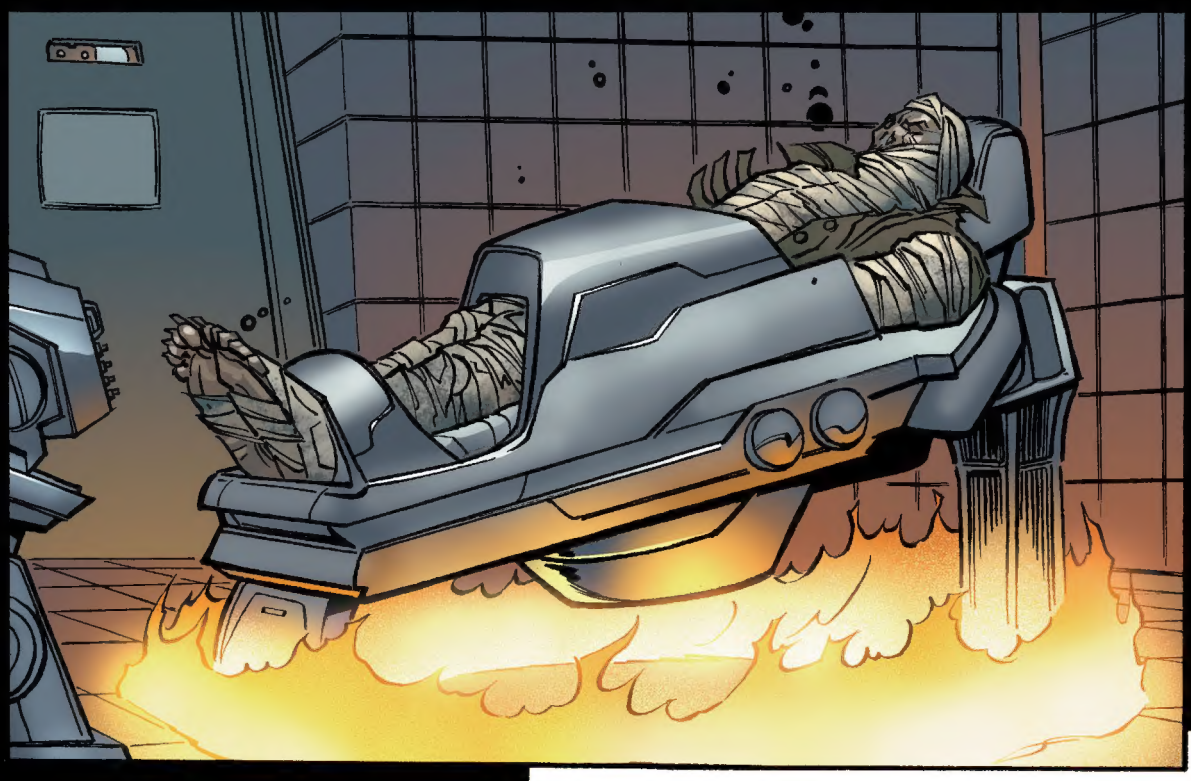
...JUST WORDS.
HEY...HEY! WHOEVER YOU ARE... CAN YOU HELP ME? PLEASE? THERE'S...THERE'S BEEN SOME KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDING... I SHOULDN'T BE HERE...I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...


THEY ALL SAY PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING. WE DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE DURING THEIR STAY.
WE EVEN PROVIDE VIRTUAL REALITY SYSTEMS FOR THOSE WHO DON'T REPRESENT A TECH-THREAT.

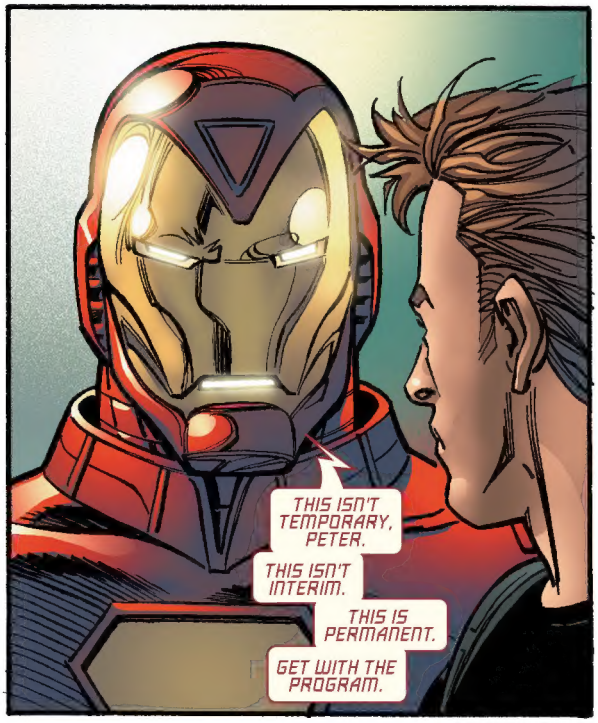
THIS WAY, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE INSIDE--

--THEY CAN FEEL AS IF THEY'RE OUTSIDE.
HELP ME... PLEASE... HELP ME...

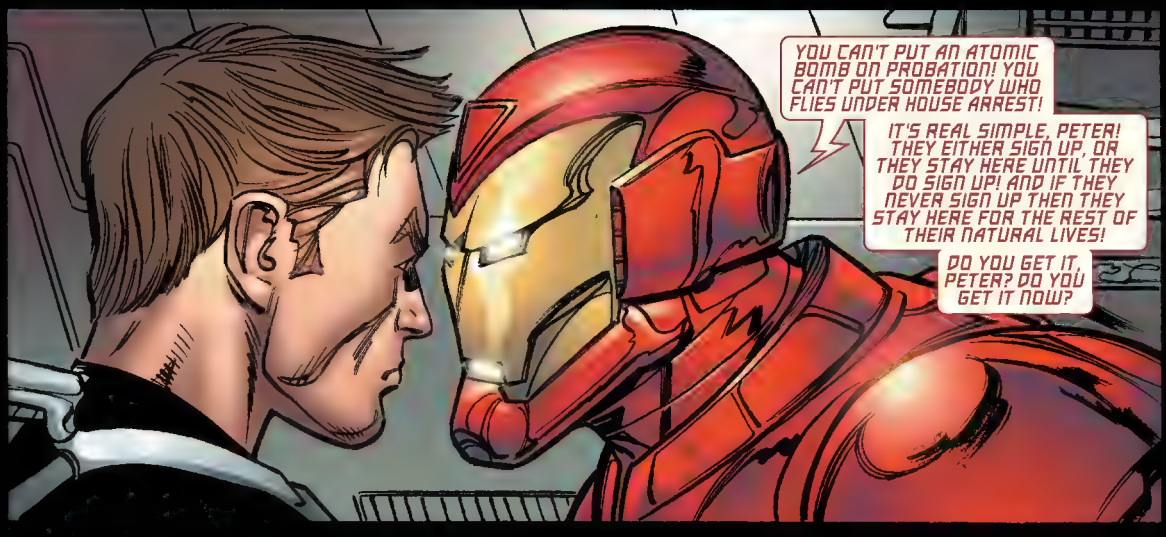

AND SOME REQUIRE METHODS OF RESTRAINT THAT ARE A BIT MORE... STRENUOUS THAN OTHERS.



SO IF YOU HAD NOTIONS OF SOME KIND OF INHUMANE GULAG, OR A DARK, DANK PRISON DRIPPING SLUDGE AND HUMAN MISERY...YOU WERE MISTAKEN.
WELL, AS AN INTERIM SOLUTION--
INTERIM?
YEAH, AS IN TEMPORARY. I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THE WORD BEFORE, IT'S IN THE DICTIONARY. YOU COULD LOOK IT UP--


THIS ISN'T TEMPORARY, PETER.
THIS ISN'T INTERIM.
THIS IS PERMANENT.
GET WITH THE PROGRAM.

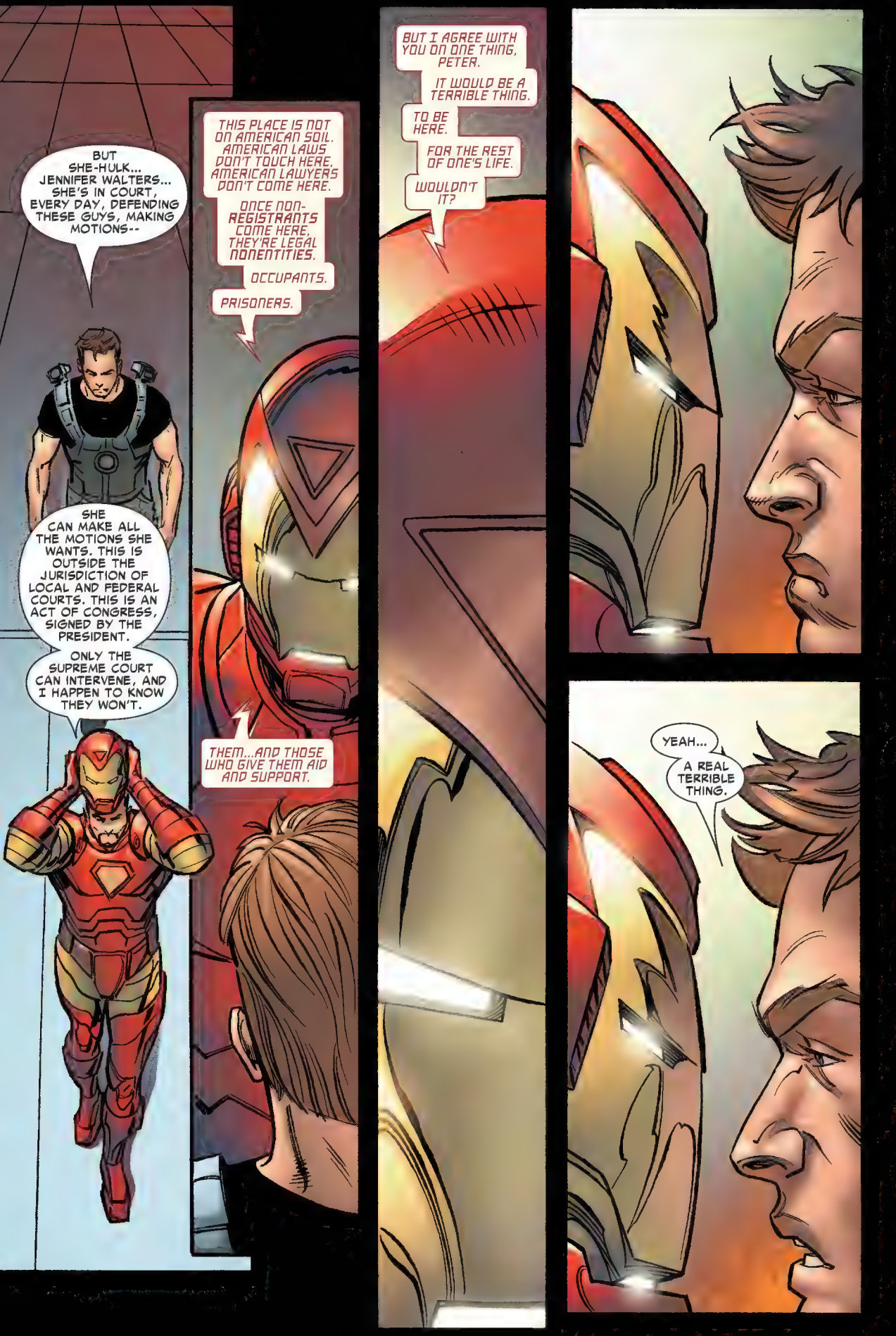
TONY? WHAT... WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
THESE PEOPLE ARE IN HERE FOR LIFE?
BUT IF THEY DON'T--
THE WORDS ARE ALL IN THE DICTIONARY. YOU COULD LOOK THEM UP.
UNLESS THEY REGISTER.

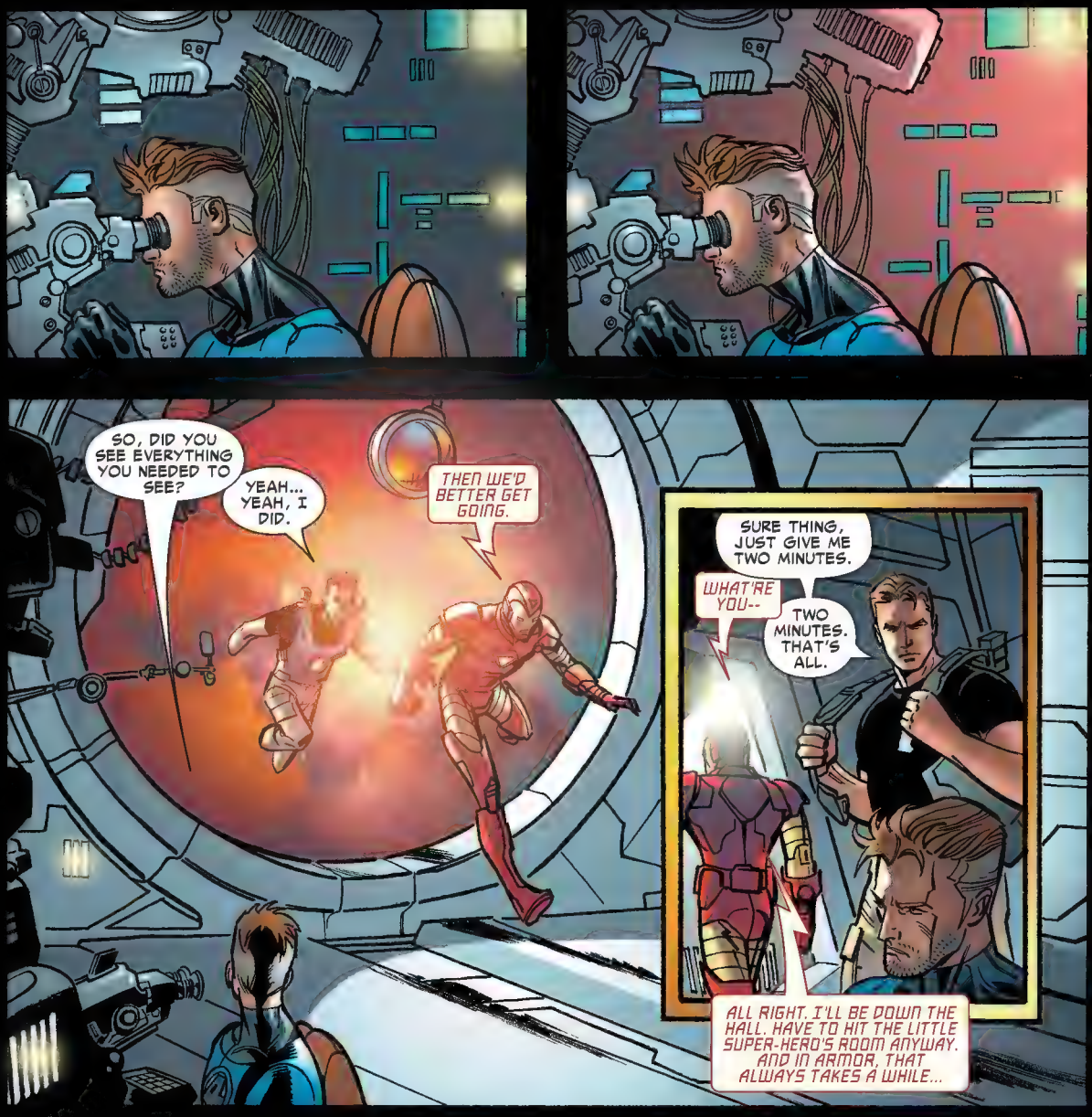

YOU CAN'T PUT AN ATOMIC BOMB ON PROBATION! YOU CAN'T PUT SOMEBODY WHO FLIES UNDER HOUSE ARREST!
IT'S REAL SIMPLE, PETER! THEY EITHER SIGN UP, OR THEY STAY HERE UNTIL THEY DO SIGN UP! AND IF THEY NEVER SIGN UP THEN THEY STAY HERE FOR THE REST OF THEIR NATURAL LIVES!
DO YOU GET IT, PETER? DO YOU GET IT NOW?

TAKE OFF THE HELMET.
AND TELL ME THAT AGAIN WHEN I CAN SEE YOUR FACE.

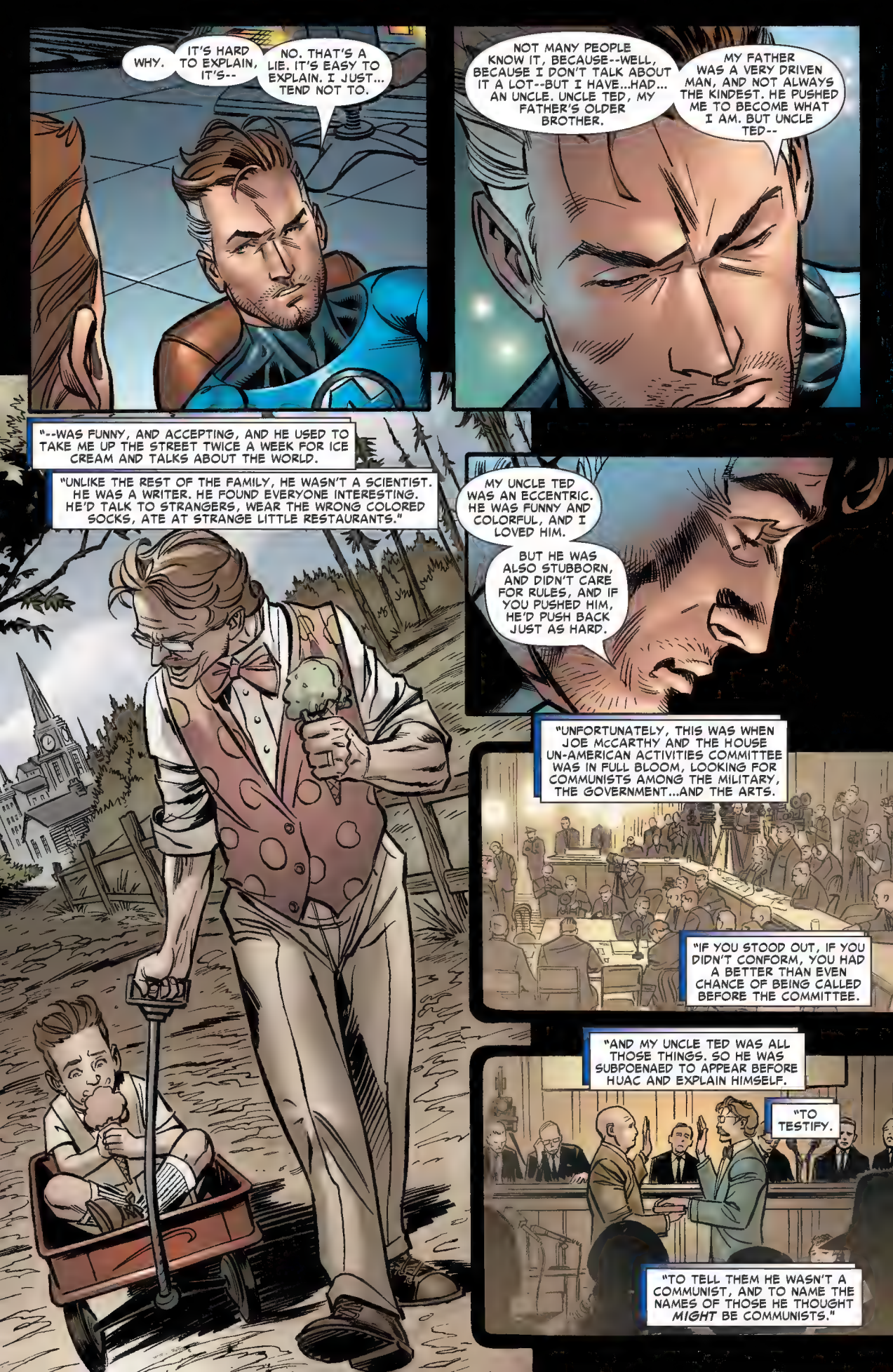
DO YOU THINK I LIKE THIS, PETER? DO YOU THINK I WORKED MY WHOLE LIFE TO BECOME SOMEONE'S JAILER?
I HATE THIS, PETER. I HATE EVERY MINUTE OF IT. I HATE EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IN WEEKS.
BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE. WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE LAW--

FOLLOWING THE LAW MEANS THESE PEOPLE GET A TRIAL BEFORE YOU SEND THEM AWAY TO BE IMPRISONED FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!
YOU CAN'T JUST LOCK PEOPLE AWAY--
YES, WE CAN. AND WE HAVE. AND THAT'S THE END OF IT.


BUT SHE-HULK... JENNIFER WALTERS... SHE'S IN COURT, EVERY DAY, DEFENDING THESE GUYS, MAKING MOTIONS--
SHE CAN MAKE ALL THE MOTIONS SHE WANTS. THIS IS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF LOCAL AND FEDERAL COURTS. THIS IS AN ACT OF CONGRESS, SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.
ONLY THE SUPREME COURT CAN INTERVENE, AND I HAPPEN TO KNOW THEY WON'T.
THIS PLACE IS NOT ON AMERICAN SOIL. AMERICAN LAWS DON'T TOUCH HERE. AMERICAN LAWYERS DON'T COME HERE.
ONCE NON-REGISTRANTS COME HERE, THEY'RE LEGAL NONENTITIES.
OCCUPANTS.
PRISONERS.
THEM...AND THOSE WHO GIVE THEM AID AND SUPPORT.
BUT I AGREE WITH YOU ON ONE THING, PETER.
IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE THING.
TO BE HERE.
FOR THE REST OF ONE'S LIFE.
WOULDN'T IT?
YEAH...
A REAL TERRIBLE THING.

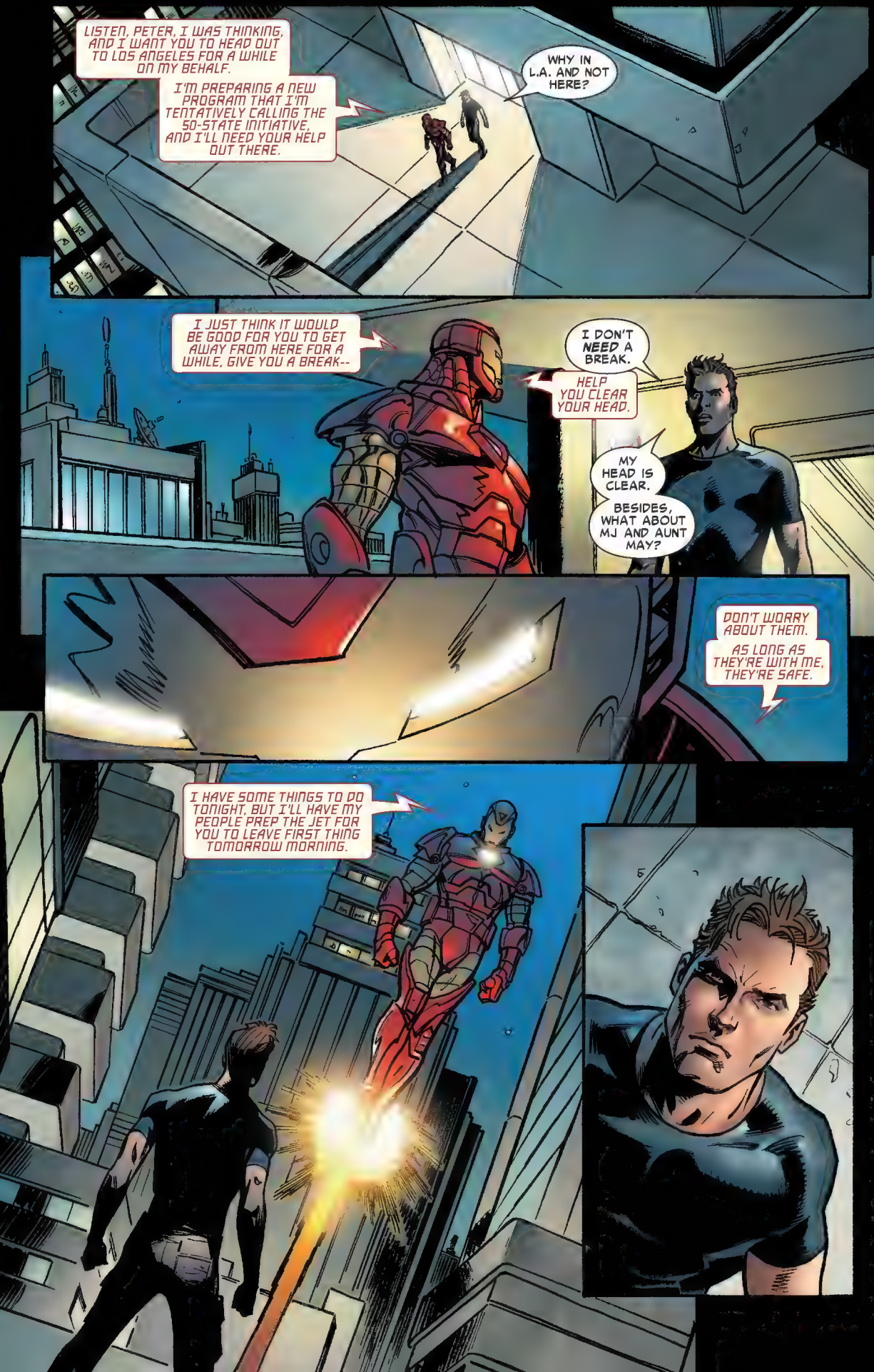

SO, DID YOU SEE EVERYTHING YOU NEEDED TO SEE?
YEAH... YEAH, I DID.
THEN WE'D BETTER GET GOING.
SURE THING, JUST GIVE ME TWO MINUTES.
WHAT'RE YOU--
TWO MINUTES. THAT'S ALL.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE DOWN THE HALL. HAVE TO HIT THE LITTLE SUPER-HERO'S ROOM ANYWAY. AND IN ARMOR, THAT ALWAYS TAKES A WHILE...

REED?
YEAH?
ASK YOU A QUESTION?
SURE.
WHY?


WHY.
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN, IT'S--
NO. THAT'S A LIE. IT'S EASY TO EXPLAIN. I JUST... TEND NOT TO.
NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW IT, BECAUSE--WELL, BECAUSE I DON'T TALK ABOUT IT A LOT--BUT I HAVE...HAD... AN UNCLE. UNCLE TED, MY FATHER'S OLDER BROTHER.
MY FATHER WAS A VERY DRIVEN MAN, AND NOT ALWAYS THE KINDEST. HE PUSHED ME TO BECOME WHAT I AM. BUT UNCLE TED--
"--WAS FUNNY, AND ACCEPTING, AND HE USED TO TAKE ME UP THE STREET TWICE A WEEK FOR ICE CREAM AND TALKS ABOUT THE WORLD.
"UNLIKE THE REST OF THE FAMILY, HE WASN'T A SCIENTIST. HE WAS A WRITER. HE FOUND EVERYONE INTERESTING. HE'D TALK TO STRANGERS, WEAR THE WRONG COLORED SOCKS, ATE AT STRANGE LITTLE RESTAURANTS."
MY UNCLE TED WAS AN ECCENTRIC. HE WAS FUNNY AND COLORFUL, AND I LOVED HIM.
BUT HE WAS ALSO STUBBORN, AND DIDN'T CARE FOR RULES, AND IF YOU PUSHED HIM, HE'D PUSH BACK JUST AS HARD.
"UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WAS WHEN JOE McCARTHY AND THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE WAS IN FULL BLOOM, LOOKING FOR COMMUNISTS AMONG THE MILITARY, THE GOVERNMENT...AND THE ARTS.
"IF YOU STOOD OUT, IF YOU DIDN'T CONFORM, YOU HAD A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF BEING CALLED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.
"AND MY UNCLE TED WAS ALL THOSE THINGS. SO HE WAS SUBPOENAED TO APPEAR BEFORE HUAC AND EXPLAIN HIMSELF.
"TO TESTIFY.
"TO TELL THEM HE WASN'T A COMMUNIST, AND TO NAME THE NAMES OF THOSE HE THOUGHT *MIGHT* BE COMMUNISTS."

I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY *READ* THE TRANSCRIPTS OF WHAT HE TOLD THE COMMITTEE, BUT MY MOTHER USED TO SAY SHE WAS SURPRISED THE STENOGRAPHY MACHINES DIDN'T BURST INTO FLAME.
BUT HE SUMMED IT UP REALLY WELL IN HIS CONCLUDING SENTENCE.
"GO TO HELL," HE TOLD THEM.
THEY HELD HIM ON CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS FOR SIX MONTHS, AND WHEN HE GOT OUT--
--HIS CAREER WAS OVER. NOBODY WOULD HIRE HIM, BUY HIS STORIES, OR ANSWER HIS PHONE CALLS. EVEN MY FATHER REFUSED TO LET HIM COME AROUND. HE LOST HIS LIFE SAVINGS, HIS HOME, AND IN THE END--
IN THE END, IT KILLED HIM.
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR UNCLE WAS A VERY BRAVE GUY.
YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT, PETER.
HE WAS WRONG.
HE PICKED A FIGHT HE COULDN'T WIN. WHETHER HUAC WAS RIGHT OR WRONG WASN'T THE POINT. IT WAS THE *LAW*.
TAKE AWAY THE LAW AND WHAT ARE WE? SAVAGES, UP TO OUR NECKS IN BLOOD. THAT'S WHY WE GIVE THE LAW THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE *EVERYTHING* AWAY FROM US IF WE BREAK IT BY MURDERING OR KIDNAPPING OR--
OR SIMPLY TELLING POWERFUL MEN, "GO TO HELL."

THE LAW IS THE LAW, PETER. I SUPPORT IT BECAUSE I HONESTLY BELIEVE WE HAVE TO SUPPORT IT, NO MATTER WHAT.
AND IF THE LAW IS WRONG?
THEN EVENTUALLY IT'LL BE CHANGED, IN AN ORDERLY, LAWFUL WAY. WE CAN'T JUST OBEY THE LAWS WE *LIKE*, OR--
PETER?
TIME TO GO.
RIGHT.
I THINK I WOULD'VE LIKED YOUR UNCLE, REED. I THINK I WOULD'VE LIKED HIM A LOT. BUT *YOU*--
--YOU *LOVED* HIM.


LISTEN, PETER, I WAS THINKING, AND I WANT YOU TO HEAD OUT TO LOS ANGELES FOR A WHILE ON MY BEHALF.
I'M PREPARING A NEW PROGRAM THAT I'M TENTATIVELY CALLING THE 50-STATE INITIATIVE, AND I'LL NEED YOUR HELP OUT THERE.
WHY IN L.A. AND NOT HERE?
I JUST THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU TO GET AWAY FROM HERE FOR A WHILE, GIVE YOU A BREAK--
I DON'T NEED A BREAK.
HELP YOU CLEAR YOUR HEAD.
MY HEAD IS CLEAR.
BESIDES, WHAT ABOUT MJ AND AUNT MAY?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.
AS LONG AS THEY'RE WITH ME, THEY'RE SAFE.
I HAVE SOME THINGS TO DO TONIGHT, BUT I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE PREP THE JET FOR YOU TO LEAVE FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING.

WHAT--

HMMM...?
OKAY, I'LL TAKE TWO.
CRYSTAL PEAKE
Real Estate
NAH, TOO RICH FOR ME.
I FOLD.
YOU BOTH NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, RIGHT NOW. IT'S NOT SAFE.
PETER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WHAT'S--
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO TRUST ME.
WE DO TRUST YOU, BUT--
I'VE MADE...
I'VE MADE A TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE MISTAKE. THERE'S GOING TO BE A PRICE FOR BOTH THAT MISTAKE AND ANY ATTEMPT I MAKE TO FIX IT. BUT I HAVE TO DO WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT, AND RIGHT NOW--
--GOD HELP ME, I REALIZE I'VE BEEN ON THE WRONG SIDE, I--

BOOM
BOOM
WHAT--
GET GOING.
BUT PETER--
GO! NOW!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

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